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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,045	07/31/2001	Ramesh Nagarajan	15-12	4258

32498 7590 03/21/2007
CAPITOL PATENT & TRADEMARK LAW FIRM, PLLC
ATTN: JOHN CURTIN
P.O. BOX 1995
VIENNA, VA 22183

EXAMINER

BLOUNT, STEVEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/919,045

Applicant(s)

NAGARAJAN ET AL.

Examiner

Steven Blount

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 6, 9 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 - 5, 7 - 11, 13 - 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,719,868 to Young.

With regard to claim 1, Young teaches announcing time slot and frequency channels to be used for transmission between neighboring nodes, wherein the link resource comprises the open-air communication channel over selected frequencies and times. The predefined sequences comprises the order in which the neighboring nodes are allowed to transmit via the time slot each is assigned to transmit in, where this information is exchanged and negotiated between neighboring nodes as is described in col 4 lines 15+, where the negotiation comprises verifying that there is no conflict. It is noted that the frequencies do not interfere with each other because each node assigns the frequencies on which it will transmit (col 3 line 44) using data provided by the other node for which frequencies it is transmitting on such that there is no overlap in the frequencies and contention is thus avoided.

Young does not however explicitly teach "receiving a connection request". However, the "announcing and confirming the assignment of individual slots" is really at least an obvious variation of a connection request, since it is a request to form a connection subject to the constraints placed on the connection in light of the conflicting times as discussed above, and this difference would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

With regard to claim 2, note the use of a table in col 1 lines 57+, and note that it is well known that the wireless devices in Young communicate via ports.

With regard to claim 6, see the rejection of claim 1 and note all the method steps are taught therein.

With regard to claim 8, see the rejection of claims 1 and 6.

With regard to claim 12, see the rejections above and note that the apparatus inherently includes a memory, or else the tables could not be stored.

2. Applicants remarks have been considered but are not persuasive. Applicant argues that predefined sequences are not used for assigning link resources. The examiner would like to point to columns 3 – 4 where information in the predefined time slots is used to determine the frequencies that can be used.

3. Claims 3 – 5, 7, 9, 10 – 11, and 13 – 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Blount whose telephone number is 571-272-3071. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Doris To, can be reached on 571 - 272 - 7629.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



DORIS H. TO
SUPERVISOR, PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

SB


3/5/07